

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     PRETOR 04873 211752Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /081 W  
-----067209 211753Z /43

O 211710Z AUG 78 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2198

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4873

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, SF WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SABC EDITORIAL ON ELECTION/INDEPENDENCE  
DATES

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SABC AUGUST 21 EDITORIAL ASSERTING  
IT IS "CRUCIAL" TO HOLD ELECTIONS FOR THE NAMIBIA  
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN 1978 AS "EXPRESSED IN THE WESTERN  
PLAN, ACCEPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND AGREED TO BY  
THE SAG."

BEGIN TEXT: THE DATE OF THE ELECTION FOR A CONSTITUENT  
ASSEMBLY IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA IS CRUCIAL. IN THREE  
SEPARATE PARAGRAPHS, THE WESTERN PLAN PROVIDES THAT IT  
SHOULD BE HELD THIS YEAR. PARAGRAPH TWO DESCRIBES THE PLAN  
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AS DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE  
DURING 1978. PARAGRAPH THREE STATES THAT THE PURPOSE OF  
THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS THE ASSUMPTION OF AUTHORITY  
BY AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT DURING 1978. PARAGRAPH ELEVEN  
REQUIRES THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO COMPLETE ITS WORK SO  
AS TO PERMIT THE INSTALLING OF AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT  
DURING 1978. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE PARAGRAPHS OF

THE PLAN PUBLISHED IN MARCH HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF EXHAUSTING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE WESTERN FIVE AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVT AND THE PARTIES IN SWA. DESCRIBED AS FINAL AND DEFINITIVE BY THE WESTERN FIVE, IT WAS ACCEPTED IN TOTO BY PRETORIA IN APRIL.

SWAPO, HOWEVER, CONTINUED ITS DELAYING TACTICS. IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR, IN TERMS OF AN EARLIER AGREEMENT WITH THE FIVE, MR. JUSTICE STEYN ASSUMED DUTY IN WINDHOEK AS ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL. IMMEDIATELY HE INVITED SWAPO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO MAKE PREPARATIONS. THIS AND A SERIES OF SIMILAR INVITATIONS (THE LAST WAS MADE A FEW DAYS AGO) WERE SUMMARILY REJECTED AND SWAPO CONTINUED WITH ITS TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. FOLLOWING PRETORIA'S APRIL ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLAN, SWAPO DELAYED ITS RESPONSE FOR MORE THAN 11 WEEKS. THEN ON JULY 12 AFTER A MEETING IN LUANDA WITH THE FIVE, IT WAS REPORTED THAT IT TOO HAD ACCEPTED. BUT IMMEDIATELY ITS SPOKESMAN BEGAN CHALLENGING VARIOUS OF THE PLAN'S PROVISIONS.

THE PLAN, WITH ITS THRICE REPEATED REFERENCE TO ELECTIONS AND INDEPENDENCE DURING 1978, WAS ENDORSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND DESPITE THE WEST'S DUPLICITY CONCERNING WALVIS BAY, PRETORIA INVITED THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MR. AHTISAARI, TO SWA. ON THURSDAY, UNCLASSIFIED

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AFTER A VISIT TO THE BORDER AREA, MR. AHTISAARI SAID THERE WAS A LONG WAY AHEAD BEFORE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD. AND THIS SHOULD BE READ TOGETHER WITH A STATEMENT BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL THAT POLLING CANNOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE MAY. MR. AHTISAARI SPEAKS OF THE NEED TO CREATE THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE BUT IN RECENT WEEKS NO LESS THAN 75 PER CENT OF THE ELIGIBLE SOUTH WEST AFRICANS HAVE REGISTERED TO VOTE. HAS THERE EVER IN ANY EMERGENT STATE BEEN MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF THE READINESS OF THE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS ?

IT IS NOT THE MASS OF THE PEOPLE THAT DISTURB THE ATMOSPHERE BUT SWAPO. IT PERSISTS WITH ITS VIOLENCE AND, LIKE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN RHODESIA, ABIDES BY THE PRECEPT THAT POWER GROWS BY THE BARREL OF THE GUN.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN SWA SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THAT PRECEPT HAS NO DEADLINE, NEITHER MAY OF 1979 NOR MAY OF ANY YEAR. DELAYING THE ELECTION CAN BUT WORSEN THE ATMOSPHERE AND DISILLUSION THOSE WHO HONESTLY BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY.

IMPARTIALITY FOR WHICH MR. AHTISAARI APPEALS CANNOT  
REQUIRE EQUAL CONSIDERATION FOR A PARTY WHICH IS CONSISTENTLY  
VIOLATING THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF AN AGREEMENT AND SEEKS  
NOW TO BREAK ONE OF ITS KEY PROVISIONS. IMPARTIALITY,  
EQUITY AND HONOR, AND THE SUCCESS OF THIS WHOLE OPERATION  
DEMAND ADHERENCE TO THE ELECTION DATE EXPRESSED IN THE  
WESTERN PLAN, ACCEPTED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND  
AGREED TO BY THE SAG. END TEXT.  
EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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